

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 ATHENS 02601 030933Z

15

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEA-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 ACDA-19 DRC-01 /131 W

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R 030900Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WAHDC 3244

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 2601

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJ: PROBLEMS BETWEEN GOG AND FRG

REF STATE 034224, ATHENS 1236

1. FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY AMBASSADOR ONCKEN TOLD ME MAY 2 THAT UNDER INSTRUCTIONS FROM HIS GOVERNMENT HE HAD INQUIRED AT FOREIGN MINISTRY REGARDING CU LEADER GEORGE MAVROS' WELL-BEING AND PRESENT STATE OF HEALTH. PURPOSE OF INQUIRY WAS TO INDICATE HIS GOVERNMENT'S CONCERN WITH MAVROS' CONTINUED DETENTION. I SUGGEST WE DO LIKEWISE WHEN AN APPROPRIATE OCCASION PRESENTS ITSELF.

2. ONCKEN ALSO TOLD ME HE FEARED A MARKED WORSENING IN RELATIONS BETWEEN GOG AND FRG. PRIMARY IRRITANT IS CONTINUED DEUTSCHE WELLE GREEK LANGUAGE NEWS PROGRAMS REGARDING INTERNAL POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN GREECE. ONCKEN SAID GOG CONTINUING TO JAM THESE PROGRAMS. ALTHOUGH HE CONSIDERED IT AN ANOMALY THAT A NATO ALLY SHOULD JAM BROADCASTS OF ANOTHER NATO ALLY, HE DID NOT BELIEVE THERE WAS ANY LEGAL REMEDY TO THE PROBLEM. (SEE REFTELS.) AS DEPARTMENT IS AWARE, WITH SEVERE PRESS CENSORSHIP NOW IN FORCE IN GREECE (TWO PAPERS CLOSED AND ONE EDITOR

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PAGE 02 ATHENS 02601 030933Z

IN CONCENTRATION CAMP ON ISLAND OF YAROS), DEUTSCHE WELLE HAS

BEEN ONE OF THE MAIN SOURCES OF NEWS ON CURRENT EVENTS IN GREECE FOR THE GREEK PEOPLE. BECAUSE OF PRESS CENSORSHIP, THE COUNTRY HAS REVERTED TO MORE PRIMITIVE MEDIUM OF COMMUNICATION, I.E., GOSSIP, WHICH FREQUENTLY LACKS IN ACCURACY. DESPITE THE JAMMING, PEOPLE CONTINUE TO LISTEN TO AND DISCUSS DEUTSCHE WELLE PROGRAMS.

3. ONCKEN THOUGHT FEDERAL REPUBLIC COULD BE PARTICULARLY VULNERABLE TO AN "ANTI-GERMAN" CAMPAIGN. HE DIFFERENTIATED THIS FROM THE SO-CALLED ANTI-AMERICAN FEELING BY NOTING THAT THE BASE OF US RELATIONS STRONG, AND CONTINUES FRIENDLY, WHEREAS GERMAN BASE BURDENED BY HISTORY, ADVERSE EMOTION AND FEELING.

4. ONCKEN ALSO SAID GOG HAD ON NUMEROUS OCCASIONS ASKED GERMANS FOR MILITARY AID IN THE FORM OF SURPLUS EQUIPMENT. ONCKEN SAID HE REPLIED THAT THERE IS A PROBLEM OF PUBLIC OPINION IN FEDERAL REPUBLIC WHICH MAKES MILITARY AID DIFFICULT. HE ALSO EXPRESSED VIEW THAT FRANCE WOULD BE EAGER TO SUPPLY MILITARY EQUIPMENT TO THE PRESENT GREEK GOVERNMENT ON FAVORABLE TERMS.

5. ONCKEN SAID FEDERAL REPUBLIC'S RELATIONS COMPLICATED BY DEUTSCHE WELLE BROADCASTS BECAUSE GREEKS IN GERMANY, SUCH AS MATHIOPOULOS, WHO BOTH ENJOYS GREEK CITIZENSHIP AND IS MEMBER OF THE SPD WITH PERSONAL CONTACTS WITH WILLY BRANDT AND PRESIDENT HEINEMANN, HAVE LED GREEKS TO DISTORT NEWS IN GREECE TO SERVE THEIR SPECIAL POLITICAL CAUSE IN GREECE, E.G., NOT SIMPLY DEMOCRACY BUT PUTTING THE MATHIOPOULOS, PAPANDREOU AND DEMETRACOPOULOS GROUP IN THE SADDLE. ONCKEN FELT SOME OF THESE INTERESTS CLEARLY OPPOSED TO NATO.

6. FOREGOING COMMENT PARTICULARLY INTERESTING IN LIGHT OF TENSIONS GOG DEVELOPING WITH TURKEY AND HEAVY-HANDED MANNER IN WHICH THIS REGIME HAS TREATED OUR MILITARY SECURITY INTERESTS SUCH AS THE SOUDA BAY AGREEMENT AND PHASE II HOMEPORTING. TASCA

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## Message Attributes

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